

passives: introduction *English is spoken in Australia.*

When A does something to B, there are often two ways to talk about it: 'active' and 'passive'.

We use active verbs if we want A to be the subject.

We use passive verbs if we want B to be the subject.

We make passive verbs with *be* (am, are, is etc) + past participle (cooked, seen etc).



ACTIVE			PASSIVE		
A		B	B		(A)
Mrs Harris	cooks	our meals.	Our meals	are cooked	by Mrs Harris.
Somebody	saw	her in Belfast.	She	was seen	in Belfast.
The government	will close	the hospital next year.	The hospital	will be closed	next year.

Passive verbs have the same tenses (simple present, present progressive, present perfect etc) as active verbs. For a list of active and passive tenses, see page 276.

1 Which picture goes with which sentence?

- ▶ The policeman helped the old lady. ▲
- The policeman was helped by the old lady. ...
 - The car hit a tree. ...
 - The car was hit by a tree. ...

- Annie loves all dogs. ...
- Annie is loved by all dogs. ...
- The Queen photographed the tourists. ...
- The Queen was photographed by the tourists. ...



2 Circle the correct answer.

- English *speaks / spoken / is spoken* in Australia.
- I *studied / was studied* French for three years at school.
- We *spent / was spent* too much money on holiday.
- This window *broke / was broken* by your little boy.
- Her clothes *made / are made* in Paris.
- This book *written / was written* by my brother.
- The new university *will open / will opened / will be opened* by the Prime Minister.
- Ann *was driving / was driven* much too fast, and she *stopped / was stopped* by the police.

Sometimes we make passives with *get* instead of *be*, especially in spoken English.
I *get paid* on Fridays. My window *got broken* by the wind.

simple present passive *We are woken by the birds.*

I am woken	you are woken	he/she/it is woken etc
am I woken?	are you woken?	is he/she/it woken? etc
I am not woken	you are not woken	he/she/it is not woken etc

For contractions (*I'm, isn't* etc), see pages 2, 277.

We use the **simple present passive** like the simple present active, for things that are **always true**, and things that happen **all the time, repeatedly, often, sometimes, never** etc (see page 15).

I am paid every two weeks. Is Jeremy liked by the other children? Stamps aren't sold here.

• For spelling rules for adding *-ed* to verbs, see page 42; for irregular past participles, see page 275.

1 Complete the sentences with *am/are/is*.

- ▶ A lot of paper *is* made from wood.
- 1 What this called in English?
- 2 I paid on the first of every month.
- 3 Jane often sent to the Singapore office.
- 4 any classes taught on Wednesdays?
- 5 More chocolate eaten in the US than in any other country.
- 6 Not very much known about Shakespeare's childhood.
- 7 We woken by the birds every morning.
- 8 you seen by the same doctor every week?

2 Put simple present passive verbs into these sentences.

- ▶ A lot of olive oil *is used* in Greek cooking. (*use*)
- 1 Arabic from right to left. (*write*)
- 2 Those programmes by millions of people every week. (*watch*)
- 3 Stamps in most newsagents in Britain. (*sell*)
- 4 The police say that nothing about the child's family. (*know*)
- 5 In English, 'ough' in a lot of different ways. (*pronounce*)
- 6 Spanish in Peru. (*speak*)
- 7 Cricket by two teams of eleven players. (*play*)
- 8 Our windows once a month. (*clean*)

3 Make simple present negatives and questions.

- ▶ Jaguar cars *are not made* in America. (*not make*)
- 'Where *are they made?*' 'In the UK.'
- 1 'My name with a Y.' (*not spell*)
- 'How 'L, E, S, I, L, E.'
- 2 'That kind of bird around here.' (*not usually see*)
- 'Where 'In warmer countries.'
- 3 'Where like were.' (*not pronounce*)
- 'How 'Like wear.'
- 4 'Diamonds in Scotland.' (*not find*)
- 'Where 'In South Africa, for example.'
- 5 'My sister very well.' (*not pay*)
- 'How much 'I don't remember.'